



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Governor's Bill No. 881

LCO No. 3227



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4-124w of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There shall be within the [Labor Department an Office of
4 Workforce Competitiveness] Department of Economic and Community
5 Development, for administrative purposes only, an Office of Workforce
6 Strategy.

7 (b) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall be under the direction of
8 the state Chief Workforce Officer, who shall be appointed by the
9 Governor. The [Labor Commissioner shall, with the assistance of the
10 Office of Workforce Competitiveness] Chief Workforce Officer shall:

11 (1) Be the [Governor's principal workforce development policy
12 advisor] principal advisor for workforce development policy, strategy
13 and coordination to the Governor;

14 (2) Be the lead state official for the development of employment and
15 training strategies and initiatives required to support the state's position
16 in the knowledge economy;

17 (3) Chair the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, which shall be made up
18 of agencies involved with employment and training as identified by the
19 Governor pursuant to section 31-3m. The Governor's Workforce Cabinet
20 shall meet at the direction of the Governor or the Chief Workforce
21 Officer.

22 ~~[(2)]~~ (4) Be the liaison between the Governor, the Governor's
23 Workforce Council, as established in section 31-3h and any local,
24 regional, state or federal organizations and entities with respect to
25 workforce development [matters] policy, strategy and coordination,
26 including, but not limited to, implementation of the Workforce
27 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as [from time to
28 time] amended from time to time;

29 ~~[(3) Coordinate the workforce development activities of all state~~
30 ~~agencies;]~~ (5) From time to time, present to the Governor for his or her
31 approval a state workforce strategy in consultation with the Governor's
32 Workforce Council and the Governor's Workforce Cabinet;

33 ~~[(4)]~~ (6) Coordinate and align [the state's implementation of the
34 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-
35 128, as from time to time amended, and advise and assist the Governor
36 with matters related to said act] the workforce development activities of
37 all state agencies, educators and trainers, regional workforce
38 development boards and others in furtherance of the goals and
39 outcomes of such state workforce strategy;

40 (7) Coordinate measurement and evaluation of outcomes across
41 education and workforce development programs, in conjunction with
42 the Labor Department and the Office of Policy and Management;

43 (8) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, review
44 state plans for each of the programs listed in subsection (b) of section

45 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-
46 128, as amended from time to time, before such plans are submitted to
47 the Governor;

48 [(5)] (9) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
49 involvement of members of the public, the legislature and local officials
50 in workforce development [matters, including implementation of the
51 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
52 from time to time amended] policy, strategy and coordination;

53 [(6)] (10) Enter, in conjunction with any state agency upon approval
54 by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, into such
55 contractual agreements, in accordance with established procedures, as
56 may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;

57 (11) Market and communicate the state's workforce development
58 strategy to ensure maximum engagement with students, job seekers and
59 businesses while effectively elevating the state's workforce profile at the
60 national level;

61 (12) Identify subject areas, courses, curriculum, content and
62 programs that may be offered to students in primary and secondary
63 school in order to improve student outcomes and meet the workforce
64 needs of the state;

65 [(7)] (13) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
66 of this section, including, but not limited to, issuing guidance, pursuant
67 to his or her authorities under this section, to state agencies, the
68 Governor's Workforce Council and regional workforce development
69 boards in furtherance of the state's workforce strategy. Such guidance
70 shall be approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
71 Management and shall be in compliance with state and federal laws.];
72 and

73 (8) Not later than October 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, submit a
74 report, with the assistance of the Labor Department, to the Governor
75 and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having

76 cognizance of matters relating to education, economic development,
77 labor and higher education and employment advancement specifying a
78 forecasted assessment by the Labor Department of workforce shortages
79 in occupations in this state for the succeeding two and five-year periods.
80 The report shall also include recommendations concerning (A) methods
81 to generate a sufficient number of workers to meet identified workforce
82 needs, including, but not limited to, scholarship, school-to-career and
83 internship programs, and (B) methods secondary and higher education
84 and private industry can use to address identified workforce needs.]

85 [(c) The Labor Department shall be the lead state agency for the
86 development of employment and training strategies and initiatives
87 required to support the state's position in the knowledge economy.]

88 (c) The [Labor Commissioner, with the assistance of the Office of
89 Workforce Competitiveness,] Chief Workforce Officer may call upon
90 any office, department, board, commission, public institution of higher
91 education or other agency of the state to supply such reports,
92 information, data and assistance as may be necessary or appropriate in
93 order to carry out its duties and requirements. Each officer or employee
94 of such office, department, board, commission, public institution of
95 higher education or other agency of the state [is authorized and directed
96 to cooperate with the Labor Commissioner and to] shall furnish such
97 reports, information, data and assistance to the Chief Workforce Officer,
98 as permitted under state and federal law.

99 (d) The Chief Workforce Officer shall provide staff to the Governor's
100 Workforce Council and such other resources as the Chief Workforce
101 Officer can make available, and shall coordinate all necessary support
102 that other state agencies can make available as needed by the Governor's
103 Workforce Council.

104 (e) On behalf of the Governor, and the Governor's Workforce
105 Council, the Chief Workforce Officer shall coordinate the state's
106 planning, budgeting and implementation of the federal Workforce
107 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as amended from

108 time to time, and may issue guidance to this effect. The Labor
109 Commissioner shall assist the Chief Workforce Officer in coordinating
110 the state's planning, budgeting and implementation of the federal
111 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, as
112 amended from time to time, and offer such other resources as the Labor
113 Commissioner can make available to do so.

114 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) There is established an account
115 to be known as the "CareerConneCT account" which shall be a separate,
116 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain
117 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in
118 the account shall be expended by Department of Economic and
119 Community Development for the purposes of funding workforce
120 training programs recommended by the Office of Workforce Strategy.

121 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
122 sections 4, 7 and 25 of this act:

123 (1) "Credential" means a documented award issued by an authorized
124 body, including, but not limited to, a (A) degree or certificate awarded
125 by an institution of higher education or private occupational school, (B)
126 certification awarded through an examination process designed to
127 demonstrate acquisition of designated knowledge, skill and ability to
128 perform a specific job, (C) license issued by a governmental agency
129 which permits an individual to practice a specific occupation upon
130 verification that such individual meets a predetermined list of
131 qualifications, and (D) documented completion of an apprenticeship or
132 job training program; and

133 (2) "Credential status type" means the official status of a credential
134 which is either active, deprecated, probationary or superseded.

135 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the executive director of the Office
136 of Higher Education, in consultation with the advisory council
137 established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall create a
138 database of credentials offered in the state for the purpose of explaining
139 the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform

140 terms and plain language. In creating the database, the executive
141 director shall utilize the minimum data policy of the New England
142 Board of Higher Education's High Value Credentials for New England
143 initiative, the uniform terms and descriptions of Credentials Engine's
144 Credential Transparency Description Language and the uniform
145 standards for comparing and linking credentials in Credential Engine's
146 Credential Transparency Description Language-Achievement
147 Standards Network. At a minimum, the database shall include the
148 following data for each credential: (1) Credential status type, (2) the
149 entity that owns or offers the credential, (3) the type of credential being
150 offered, (4) a short description of the credential, (5) the name of the
151 credential, (6) the Internet web site that provides information relating to
152 the credential, (7) the language in which the credential is offered, (8) the
153 estimated duration for completion, (9) the industry related to the
154 credential which may include its code under the North American
155 Industry Classification System, (10) the occupation related to the
156 credential which may include its code under the standard occupational
157 classification system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United
158 States Department of Labor or under The Occupational Information
159 Network, (11) the estimated cost for completion, and (12) a listing of
160 online or physical locations where the credential is offered.

161 (c) There is established an advisory council for the purpose of
162 advising the executive director of the Office of Higher Education on the
163 database created pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The advisory
164 council shall consist of representatives from the Office of Workforce
165 Strategy established pursuant to section 4-124w of the general statutes,
166 as amended by this act, the Office of Higher Education, the Office of
167 Policy and Management, the Labor Department and the Department of
168 Education.

169 (d) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each
170 institution of higher education, private occupational school and
171 provider of a training program listed on the Labor Department's Eligible
172 Training Provider List shall submit information, in the form and manner
173 prescribed by the executive director of the Office of Higher Education,

174 about any credential offered by such institution, school or provider for
175 inclusion in the database created pursuant to subsection (b) of this
176 section.

177 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Labor
178 Department to submit credential information to the database created
179 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The Labor Department may,
180 in consultation with the advisory council established pursuant to
181 subsection (c) of this section, require any program sponsor of a
182 preapprenticeship or apprenticeship program to submit information
183 about such program to the Office of Higher Education for inclusion in
184 such database.

185 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Office of Workforce Strategy
186 established pursuant to section 4-124w of the general statutes, as
187 amended by this act, shall establish standards to designate certain
188 credentials as credentials of value. Such standards shall include, but not
189 be limited to, meeting the workforce needs of employers in the state,
190 enrollment rates, completion rates and aggregate earnings data upon
191 completion. The office shall compile, and annually update, a list of
192 credentials designated as credentials of value, and include such list in
193 the database established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

194 Sec. 5. Subsection (l) of section 10a-34 of the general statutes is
195 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
196 *2021*):

197 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (j), inclusive,
198 of this section and subject to the authority of the State Board of
199 Education to regulate teacher education programs, up to twelve new
200 programs of higher learning in any academic year and any program
201 modifications proposed by an independent institution of higher
202 education, as defined in section 10a-173, shall not be subject to approval
203 by the Office of Higher Education, provided (1) the institution maintains
204 eligibility to participate in financial aid programs governed by Title IV,
205 Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended from time to

206 time, (2) the United States Department of Education has not determined
207 that the institution has a financial responsibility score that is less than
208 1.5 for the most recent fiscal year for which the data necessary for
209 determining the score is available, and (3) the institution has been
210 located in the state and accredited as a degree-granting institution in
211 good standing for ten years or more by a regional accrediting association
212 recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of
213 Education and maintains such accreditation status. Each institution that
214 is exempt from program approval by the Office of Higher Education
215 under this subsection shall file with the office (A) an application for
216 approval of any new program of higher learning in excess of twelve new
217 programs in any academic year, (B) a program actions form, as created
218 by the office, prior to students enrolling in any new program of higher
219 learning or any existing program subject to a program modification, and
220 (C) not later than July first, and annually thereafter, (i) until January 1,
221 2024, a list and brief description of any new programs of higher learning
222 introduced by the institution in the preceding academic year and any
223 existing programs of higher learning discontinued by the institution in
224 the preceding academic year, (ii) the institution's current program
225 approval process and all actions of the governing board concerning
226 approval of any new program of higher learning, and (iii) the
227 institution's financial responsibility composite score, as determined by
228 the United States Department of Education, for the most recent fiscal
229 year for which the data necessary for determining the score is available.

230 Sec. 6. Section 10a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the
231 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

232 (a) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
233 by this act, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall have the
234 authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections and the
235 standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder, to (1)
236 review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
237 academic programs for the universities within the Connecticut State
238 University System, the regional community-technical colleges and
239 Charter Oak State College, and (2) until January 1, 2024, report all new

240 programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education.

241 (b) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, as amended
242 by this act, the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall
243 (1) have the authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections
244 and the standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder,
245 to review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
246 academic programs at the university, and (2) until January 1, 2024,
247 report all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher
248 Education.

249 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than January 1, 2023,
250 each private occupational school, as defined in section 10a-22a of the
251 general statutes, shall submit, in a format and manner prescribed by the
252 executive director of the Office of Higher Education, data for each
253 student at such private occupational school, including, but not limited
254 to, course enrollment, course completion, credential completion, fees
255 and tuition charged, federal student loans received, federal student loan
256 balances, and for any student who has a state-assigned student
257 identifier pursuant to section 10-10a of the general statutes, such student
258 identifier.

259 Sec. 8. Subsection (j) of section 31-225a of the general statutes is
260 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
261 *2021*):

262 (j) (1) (A) Each employer subject to this chapter shall submit
263 quarterly, on forms supplied by the administrator, a listing of wage
264 information, including the name of each employee receiving wages in
265 employment subject to this chapter, such employee's Social Security
266 account number and the amount of wages paid to such employee during
267 such calendar quarter.

268 (B) Commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2024, unless
269 waived pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, any employer
270 subject to this chapter, with one hundred or more employees, shall
271 include in the quarterly filing submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)

272 of this subdivision, for each employee receiving wages in employment
273 subject to this chapter, such employee's gender identity, race, ethnicity,
274 veteran status, highest education completed, address of primary work
275 site, occupational code under the standard occupational classification
276 system of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department
277 of Labor, hours worked, days worked, salary or hourly wage,
278 employment start date in the current job title and, if applicable,
279 employment end date. The information required pursuant to this
280 subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly filings of employers
281 subject to this chapter with ninety-nine or fewer employees
282 commencing with the third calendar quarter of 2027 and employers
283 subject to this chapter with forty-nine or fewer employees without an
284 electronic payroll system commencing with the third calendar quarter
285 of 2031. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to require an
286 employee to provide information about gender identity, race, ethnicity,
287 or veteran status if not otherwise required by law.

288 (2) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
289 employer subject to this chapter who reports wages for employees
290 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter, and each person
291 or organization that, as an agent, reports wages for employees receiving
292 wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one or more
293 employers subject to this chapter shall submit quarterly the information
294 required by subdivision (1) of this subsection [on magnetic tape,
295 diskette, or other similar electronic means which the administrator may
296 prescribe] electronically, in a format and manner prescribed by the
297 administrator, unless such employer or agent receives a waiver
298 pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.

299 (3) Any employer that fails to submit the information required by
300 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection in a timely
301 manner, as determined by the administrator, shall be liable to the
302 administrator for a late filing fee of twenty-five dollars. Any employer
303 that fails to submit the information required by subparagraph (A) of
304 subdivision (1) of this subsection under a proper state unemployment
305 compensation registration number shall be liable to the administrator

306 for a fee of twenty-five dollars. All fees collected by the administrator
307 under this subdivision shall be deposited in the Employment Security
308 Administration Fund.

309 (4) [Commencing with the first calendar quarter of 2014, each] Each
310 employer subject to this chapter who makes contributions or payments
311 in lieu of contributions for employees receiving wages in employment
312 subject to this chapter, and each person or organization that, as an agent,
313 makes contributions or payments in lieu of contributions for employees
314 receiving wages in employment subject to this chapter on behalf of one
315 or more employers subject to this chapter shall make such contributions
316 or payments in lieu of contributions electronically.

317 (5) Any employer or any person or organization that, as an agent,
318 [submits] is required to submit information pursuant to subdivision (2)
319 of this subsection, [or makes] make contributions or payments in lieu of
320 contributions pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection or submit
321 information pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
322 subsection may request in writing, not later than thirty days prior to the
323 date a submission of information or a contribution or payment in lieu of
324 contribution is due, that the administrator waive [the] such
325 requirement. [that such submission or contribution or payment in lieu
326 of contribution be made electronically.] The administrator shall grant
327 such request if, on the basis of information provided by such employer
328 or person or organization and on a form prescribed by the
329 administrator, the administrator finds that there would be undue
330 hardship for such employer or person or organization. The
331 administrator shall promptly inform such employer or person or
332 organization of the granting or rejection of the requested waiver. The
333 decision of the administrator shall be final and not subject to further
334 review or appeal. Such waiver shall be effective for twelve months from
335 the date such waiver is granted.

336 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than December 1, 2021,
337 and annually thereafter, each local and regional board of education that
338 participates in the National School Lunch Program, in which at least one

339 school under the jurisdiction of said board qualifies for maximum
340 federal reimbursement for all school meals served under the federal
341 Community Eligibility Provision, but does not implement such
342 program, shall report such board's reasons for not implementing such
343 program to the Department of Education. The report shall include, but
344 not be limited to, a description of the specific impediments to
345 implementing the program, actions required to remove those
346 impediments and a plan for successful implementation of the program
347 for the following school year. As used in this section, "Community
348 Eligibility Provision" means the federal meal reimbursement program
349 administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, as set
350 forth in 7 CFR 245.9, as amended from time to time.

351 Sec. 10. Subsection (j) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
352 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
353 *2021*):

354 (j) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, ~~[2012]~~ 2021, and each
355 school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education, in
356 collaboration with each student and such student's parent or guardian,
357 shall create a student success plan for [each] such student [enrolled in a
358 public school,] beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall
359 include a student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve,
360 inclusive. Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall
361 provide evidence of career exploration in each grade including, but not
362 limited to, careers in manufacturing. The Department of Education shall
363 revise and issue to local and regional boards of education guidance
364 regarding changes to such student success plans. On and after July 1,
365 2020, in creating such student success plans, consideration shall be given
366 to career and academic choices in computer science, science, technology,
367 engineering and mathematics.

368 (2) (A) On and after July 1, 2024, each local and regional board of
369 education shall document every student success plan electronically and
370 submit such plan to the Department of Education.

371 (B) The department shall share, upon the written consent of a student,
372 or such student's parent or guardian if the student is seventeen years of
373 age or younger, the student success plan with an academic or career
374 counselor from an institution of higher education in the state in which
375 such student is enrolled.

376 Sec. 11. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding
377 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

378 (NEW) (l) No local or regional board of education may restrict or
379 deny a student access to career and technical education, work-based
380 learning, service learning, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college,
381 advanced placement, International Baccalaureate or any other honors,
382 advanced or accelerated course or program based solely or
383 predominantly on such student's prior academic performance. A board
384 may establish prerequisites for any such course or program, provided
385 such board seeks to minimize prerequisites and ensures that any such
386 prerequisite are evidence-based indicators of student performance.
387 Each board shall seek to improve access to and diversity in such courses
388 and programs, promote a challenging curriculum for all students and
389 encourage all students to pursue high-quality postsecondary education,
390 including both degree and nondegree programs.

391 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2022,
392 each local or regional board of education shall adopt a challenging
393 curriculum policy for high school students in the school district. A
394 challenging curriculum policy shall include the following requirements:

395 (1) For any student enrolled in grades eight or eleven who meets or
396 exceeds the state level three standard for the reading, writing,
397 mathematics or science components of a mastery examination, given in
398 accordance with the provisions of section 10-14n of the general statutes,
399 but not including any alternate assessments administered pursuant to
400 34 CFR 200.1(d) or 34 CFR 300.160(c), as amended from time to time,
401 each local or regional board of education shall automatically (A) enroll
402 such student in the next most rigorous level of advanced course or

403 program offered by the student's high school in accordance with
404 subsection (b) of this section, and (B) create an academic plan for such
405 student that results in the student completing one or more dual credit,
406 dual enrollment, early college, advanced placement or International
407 Baccalaureate course by the end of eleventh grade, provided such
408 academic plan shall be amended upon the request of such student's
409 parent or guardian.

410 (2) Students who successfully complete a course in accordance with
411 subsection (b) of this section shall be enrolled in a course that is at the
412 same level or the next most rigorous level in the same subject area with
413 the objective that students will eventually be automatically enrolled in
414 a dual credit, early college, advanced placement or International
415 Baccalaureate course.

416 (3) Any enrollment in an advanced course or program or academic
417 plan created pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall
418 align with a student's success plan created pursuant to section 10-221a
419 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

420 (4) A parent or guardian of a high school student may opt the student
421 out of the challenging curriculum policy and enroll the student in an
422 alternative course or program.

423 (5) Each local or regional board of education may include additional
424 or different eligibility criteria for students to participate in the
425 challenging curriculum policy, provided such criteria do not create
426 inequities among student groups eligible for advanced courses or
427 programs. Such eligibility criteria may include measures, other than
428 student performance on mastery examinations, which the board finds
429 are an indicator of ability to succeed in an advanced course or program.

430 (b) The subject matter of an advanced course or program in which a
431 student is automatically enrolled pursuant to subdivision (1) of
432 subsection (a) of this section shall be related to the component of a
433 mastery examination in which the student met or exceeded the state
434 level three standard in accordance with the following:

435 (1) Students who meet or exceed the state level three standard on the
436 reading or writing component of a mastery examination are eligible for
437 enrollment in advanced courses in English, social studies, the
438 humanities and other related subjects.

439 (2) Students who meet or exceed the state level three standard on the
440 mathematics component of a mastery examination are eligible for
441 enrollment in advanced courses in mathematics.

442 (3) Students who meet or exceed the state level three standard on the
443 science component of a mastery examination are eligible for enrollment
444 in advanced courses in science.

445 (c) Each local or regional board of education may use automatic
446 enrollment for dual credit, dual enrollment, early college, advanced
447 placement or International Baccalaureate courses in subjects not
448 specified in this section.

449 Sec. 13. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding
450 subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

451 (NEW) (m) Commencing with the classes graduating in 2024, and for
452 each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
453 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
454 diploma to any student who has not (1) completed and submitted to the
455 United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal
456 Student Aid, (2) completed and submitted to a public institution of
457 higher education an application for institutional financial aid for
458 students without legal immigration status established pursuant to
459 section 10a-161d, or (3) completed and submitted a waiver, on a form
460 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 14 of
461 this act, signed by such minor student's parent or legal guardian or such
462 student if such student is a legally emancipated minor or eighteen years
463 of age or older, which signed waiver shall contain an attestation of (A)
464 understanding the purpose of the Free Application for Federal Student
465 Aid or the application for institutional financial aid for students without
466 legal immigration status, and (B) the choice to not file such application.

467 A local or regional board of education shall exempt any student from
468 the requirements of this subsection upon such board's determination
469 that such student is unable to complete and submit a Free Application
470 for Federal Student Aid, an application for institutional financial aid for
471 students without legal immigration status or a signed waiver.

472 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Each local and regional board
473 of education shall allow every student in grade twelve not more than
474 three hours of school time, without an impact on attendance, to attend
475 an event or to receive assistance for the completion of the Free
476 Application for Federal Student Aid or an application for institutional
477 financial aid for students without legal immigration status established
478 pursuant to section 10a-161d of the general statutes.

479 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education shall
480 create and distribute to each local and regional board of education any
481 forms necessary to implement the provisions of subsection (m) of
482 section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and
483 section 15 of this act.

484 Sec. 15. Subsection (b) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is
485 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
486 *2022*):

487 (b) (1) [Prior to July 1, 2004, no providing school district shall grant
488 an adult education diploma to any adult education program participant
489 who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty adult
490 education credits, of which not fewer than four shall be in English; not
491 fewer than three in mathematics; not fewer than three in social studies,
492 including one in American history; not fewer than two in science; and
493 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education. On and after July
494 1, 2004, no] No providing school district shall grant an adult education
495 diploma to any adult education program participant who has not
496 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty adult education credits,
497 of which not fewer than four shall be in English; not fewer than three in
498 mathematics; not fewer than three in social studies, including one in

499 American history and at least a one-half credit course in civics and
500 American government; not fewer than two in science; and not fewer
501 than one in the arts or vocational education. (2) Each providing school
502 district shall determine the minimum number of weeks per semester an
503 adult education program shall operate and shall provide certified
504 counseling staff to assist adult education program students with
505 educational and career counseling. (3) No providing school district shall
506 grant an adult education diploma to any adult education program
507 participant who enrolls in such program on and after September 1, 2023,
508 and has not satisfactorily (A) completed and submitted to the United
509 States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student
510 Aid, (B) completed and submitted to a public institution of higher
511 education an application for institutional financial aid for students
512 without legal immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-
513 161d, or (C) completed and submitted a waiver, on a form prescribed by
514 the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 14 of this act, signed
515 by such program participant, which signed waiver shall contain an
516 attestation of (i) understanding the purpose of the Free Application for
517 Federal Student Aid or the application for institutional financial aid for
518 students without legal immigration status, and (ii) the choice to not file
519 such application. A providing school district shall exempt any program
520 participant from the requirements of this subsection upon such district's
521 determination that such program participant is unable to complete and
522 submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, an application for
523 institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status
524 or a signed waiver.

525 Sec. 16. Section 10-184 of the general statutes is repealed and the
526 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

527 All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them
528 up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause
529 them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar,
530 geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship,
531 including a study of the town, state and federal governments. Subject to
532 the provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or other

533 person having control of a child five years of age and over and under
534 eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public school
535 regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in
536 which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school
537 graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to
538 show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the
539 studies taught in the public schools. For the school year commencing
540 July 1, [2011] 2022, and each school year thereafter, [the parent or person
541 having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent, as
542 provided in this section, to such child's withdrawal from school. Such
543 parent or person] a student who is eighteen years of age or older may
544 withdraw from school. Such student shall personally appear at the
545 school district office and sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form
546 shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor
547 or school administrator of the school that such school district has
548 provided such [parent or person] student with information on the
549 educational options available in the school system and in the
550 community. The parent or person having control of a child five years of
551 age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the
552 child is six years of age and the parent or person having control of a
553 child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to
554 school until the child is seven years of age. The parent or person shall
555 exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office
556 and signing an option form. The school district shall provide the parent
557 or person with information on the educational opportunities available
558 in the school system.

559 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 10-5 of the general statutes is
560 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
561 *2022*):

562 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this
563 section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who
564 successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner,
565 or (2) who (A) [is seventeen years of age and has been officially
566 withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-

567 184 or] is eighteen years of age or older, and (B) presents to the
568 commissioner evidence demonstrating educational qualifications which
569 the commissioner deems equivalent to those required for graduation
570 from a public high school. Application for such a diploma shall be made
571 in the manner and form prescribed by the commissioner provided, at
572 the time of application to take the examination described in subdivision
573 (1) of this subsection, the applicant [is seventeen years of age or older,]
574 has been officially withdrawn from school, in accordance with section
575 [10-184] 16 of this act, for at least six months and has been advised, in
576 such manner as may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other
577 options for high school completion and other available educational
578 programs. For good cause shown, the commissioner may allow a person
579 who is sixteen years of age to apply to take the examination, provided
580 the commissioner may not issue a state high school diploma to such
581 person until the person has attained seventeen years of age.

582 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than January 1, 2022,
583 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Office of
584 Workforce Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124 of the general
585 statutes, as amended by this act, and with the approval of the State
586 Board of Education, may make recommendations to the State Board of
587 Education, the Office of Policy and Management and, in accordance
588 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
589 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
590 matters relating to education for: (1) Strategies and supports necessary
591 to increase the number of students in alliance districts and adult
592 education programs that complete the Free Application for Federal
593 Student Aid or application for institutional financial aid for students
594 without legal immigration status; (2) educating students and their
595 families about the net cost of college, the use of federal Pell grants to
596 make college more affordable and the varying income potential of
597 different college and certificate programs; and (3) strategies to remove
598 barriers and simplify access to high-quality postsecondary education
599 and training options, including, but not limited to, nondegree programs.
600 The commissioner shall consult with parents, teachers and school

601 administrators before making any such recommendations and may
602 establish a task force to help create such recommendations.

603 Sec. 19. Section 10-220g of the general statutes is repealed and the
604 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

605 Each local and regional board of education shall establish, and
606 update as necessary, a written policy concerning weighted grading for
607 honors, [and] advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, service
608 learning dual enrollment, dual credit and early college classes. The
609 policy shall provide that parents and students are advised whether a
610 grade in an honors, [class or an] advanced placement, International
611 Baccalaureate, service learning dual enrollment, dual credit or early
612 college class is or is not given added weight for purposes of calculating
613 grade point average and determining class rank. Each local and regional
614 board of education shall consider the impact of a weighted grading
615 policy on the grade point average and class rank of students who
616 complete coursework in career and technical education before
617 establishing or updating such policy.

618 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section and
619 section 21 of this act, "participating institution" means (1) an institution
620 of higher education within the Connecticut State Colleges and
621 Universities, or (2) any other institution of higher education in the state
622 that enters into a memorandum of understanding with the Board of
623 Regents for Higher Education in accordance with subsection (d) of this
624 section.

625 (b) Not later than April 1, 2022, the Board of Regents for Higher
626 Education shall (1) establish the Connecticut Automatic Admissions
627 Program, and (2) adopt rules, procedures and forms necessary to
628 implement such program. The Connecticut Automatic Admissions
629 Program shall require participating institutions to admit any applicant
630 as a full-time, first-year student if such applicant (A) is at or above the
631 class rank percentile prescribed by the participating institution, (B)
632 would qualify as an in-state student pursuant to section 10a-29 of the

633 general statutes, (C) is a twelfth grade student at a public high school in
634 the state or a nonpublic high school in the state approved pursuant to
635 subsection (g) of this section, and (D) if required by a participating
636 institution, earns a high school diploma.

637 (c) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall create a simple
638 online application form for students to apply to participating
639 institutions under the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program.
640 Such application shall require a student to verify that such student
641 meets the qualifications specified in subsection (b) of this section and
642 any additional requirements set forth in policies and procedures
643 established in accordance with subsection (e) of this section. Such
644 application shall not require (1) an application fee, or (2) the submission
645 of an essay or recommendation letters.

646 (d) On and after July 1, 2023, any institution of higher education in
647 the state that is not within the Connecticut State Colleges and
648 Universities and graduates one hundred or more students with a
649 bachelor's degree each year for the preceding four years may enter into
650 a memorandum of agreement with the Board of Regents for Higher
651 Education to participate in the Connecticut Automatic Admissions
652 Program. Each such participating institution shall accept the online
653 application form created pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and
654 comply with the provisions of subsection (e) of this section. The Board
655 of Regents for Higher Education may charge a reasonable fee to any
656 participating institution that is not a constituent unit of the state system
657 of higher education for inclusion in the program. Such fee shall not
658 exceed the board's cost for including such participating institution in the
659 program or fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less.

660 (e) The Board of Regents for Higher Education or the governing
661 board of any other participating institution shall establish a minimum
662 class rank percentile to qualify for admission through the Connecticut
663 Automatic Admissions Program to each participating institution under
664 such board's governance and may establish policies or procedures
665 necessary for admitting students under said program. No board may

666 establish policies or procedures that require any academic qualifications
667 in addition to the qualifications specified in subsection (b) of this section.
668 A participating institution of higher education may deny admission to
669 a student who is otherwise qualified for the program pursuant to
670 subsection (b) of this section provided (1) the reason for denial is
671 articulated in the policies or procedures established by a board in
672 accordance with this subsection, and (2) the student shall be notified of
673 the denial and allowed a reasonable amount of time in which to cure the
674 reason for denial.

675 (f) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall not consider the
676 manner in which a student was admitted in determining such student's
677 eligibility for need-based or merit-based financial aid.

678 (g) Any nonpublic high school in the state may apply to the Board of
679 Regents for Higher Education, in the form and manner prescribed by
680 the board, to participate in the Connecticut Automatic Admission
681 Program. The board shall approve any such nonpublic high school
682 applicant provided the high school (1) is accredited by a generally
683 recognized accrediting organization or is operated by the United States
684 Department of Defense, and (2) complies with the provisions of section
685 21 of this act.

686 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2022,
687 and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of
688 education shall calculate a class rank percentile for each student who
689 completes eleventh grade. Any board that adopts a weighted grading
690 policy pursuant to section 10-220g of the general statutes, as amended
691 by this act, shall use such policy to calculate class rank percentile. Each
692 board shall share a student's class rank percentile with (1) the student,
693 (2) the student's parent or guardian if such student is seventeen years of
694 age or younger, (3) the Department of Education, and (4) upon a
695 student's request, a participating institution for the purposes of the
696 Connecticut Automatic Admission Program established pursuant to
697 section 20 of this act. The Department of Education may require a local
698 or regional board of education to submit each student's grade point

699 average and class rank percentile electronically.

700 (b) Not later than August 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter,
701 each local and regional board education shall notify each student in
702 grade twelve, and the parent or guardian of such student, whether such
703 student's class rank percentile allows such student to be admitted to at
704 least one participating institution under the Connecticut Automatic
705 Admissions Program established pursuant to section 20 of this act.

706 Sec. 22. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

707 (1) "Eligible organization" means any provider of a training program,
708 institution of higher education, private occupational school, employer,
709 state or municipal agency and public or nonprofit social service
710 provider in the state; and

711 (2) "Approved class" means a set of employees, clients, students or
712 customers of an eligible organization.

713 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of
714 Transportation shall establish a bulk ride transit pass program to allow
715 individuals in an approved class for an eligible organization to use
716 certain public transit services without cost or at a reduced cost. The
717 commissioner shall post information regarding the bulk ride transit pass
718 program and application process for such program on the Department
719 of Transportation's Internet web site in a manner that, in the
720 commissioner's discretion, will maximize awareness and participation
721 by the greatest number of eligible organizations.

722 (c) Upon receipt of an application from an eligible organization to
723 participate in the bulk ride transit pass program, the commissioner may
724 negotiate the terms and conditions and enter into a contract with such
725 eligible organization. The commissioner may treat several eligible
726 organizations as a single eligible organization for the purposes of a
727 contract under the bulk ride transit pass program. Such terms and
728 conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the amount of
729 compensation or reimbursement required from the eligible

730 organization, the definition of approved class specific to the eligible
731 organization and any limitations on times of use or types of public
732 transit services available to the approved class. The compensation or
733 reimbursement negotiated in the contract shall be in an amount as the
734 commissioner deems necessary or advisable, provided the amount is
735 sufficient to ensure that transit service expenditures incurred by the
736 department do not increase as a result of the bulk ride transit pass
737 program. A contract under the bulk ride transit pass program shall be
738 valid upon the approval of the Office of Policy and Management for a
739 term of not more than two years, except the first contract with an eligible
740 organization shall not exceed twelve months. Prior to any renewal of a
741 contract with an eligible organization under the bulk ride transit pass
742 program, the commissioner shall consider prior pass utilization
743 information and any transit service expenditure increases incurred by
744 the department for the purpose of re-evaluating the amount of
745 compensation or reimbursement required from such eligible
746 organization.

747 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
748 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report to the Secretary
749 of the Office of Policy and Management on the financial data and pass
750 utilization information for each contract under the bulk ride transit pass
751 program.

752 Sec. 23. Section 10a-223 of the general statutes is repealed and the
753 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

754 In this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the
755 following meanings unless the context indicates another or different
756 meaning or intent:

757 (1) "Authority" means the Connecticut Higher Education
758 Supplemental Loan Authority constituted as a subsidiary of the
759 Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority as provided in
760 section 10a-179a;

761 (2) "Authorized officer" means an employee of the Connecticut

762 Health and Educational Facilities Authority or of the authority who is
763 authorized by the board of directors of the authority to execute and
764 deliver documents and papers and to act in the name of and on behalf
765 of the authority;

766 (3) "Authority loans" means education loans by the authority, or loans
767 by the authority from the proceeds of bonds for the purpose of funding
768 education loans;

769 (4) "Board" means the board of directors of the authority;

770 (5) "Bonds" or "revenue bonds" means revenue bonds or notes of the
771 authority issued under the provisions of this chapter, including revenue
772 refunding bonds or notes;

773 (6) "Bond resolution" means the resolution or resolutions of the
774 authority and the trust agreement, if any, authorizing the issuance of
775 and providing for the terms and conditions applicable to bonds;

776 (7) "Borrower" means (A) an individual who has an outstanding loan
777 from the authority, (B) an individual who attends a Connecticut
778 institution for higher education, enrolls in a Connecticut high-value
779 certificate program or currently resides in the state, and has received or
780 agreed to pay an education loan, or (C) any parent who has received or
781 agreed to pay an education loan on behalf of an individual who attends
782 a Connecticut institution for higher education or currently resides in the
783 state;

784 (8) "Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority" means
785 the quasi-public authority established pursuant to section 10a-179;

786 (9) "Connecticut institution for higher education" means an
787 institution for higher education within the state;

788 (10) "Default insurance" means insurance insuring education loans,
789 authority loans or bonds against default;

790 (11) "Default reserve fund" means a fund established pursuant to a

791 bond resolution for the purpose of securing education loans, authority
792 loans or bonds;

793 (12) "Education loan" means a loan which is made to a student in or
794 from the state or a parent of such student to finance attendance at an
795 institution for higher education or enrollment in a high-value certificate
796 program, or to a borrower to refinance one or more eligible loans;

797 (13) "Loan funding deposit" means moneys or other property
798 deposited by a Connecticut institution for higher education with the
799 authority, a guarantor or a trustee for the purpose of (A) providing
800 security for bonds, (B) funding a default reserve fund, (C) acquiring
801 default insurance, or (D) defraying costs of the authority, such moneys
802 or properties to be in such amounts as deemed necessary by the
803 authority or guarantor as a condition for such institution's participation
804 in the authority's programs;

805 (14) "Institution for higher education" means a degree-granting
806 educational institution within the United States authorized by
807 applicable law to provide a program of education beyond the high
808 school level and (A) described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
809 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
810 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and
811 exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of said code with respect to
812 a trade or business carried on by such institution which is not an
813 unrelated trade or business, determined by applying Section 513(a) of
814 said code to such organization or a foundation established for its benefit,
815 or (B) exempt from taxation under said code as a governmental unit;

816 (15) "Participating institution for higher education" means a
817 Connecticut institution for higher education which, pursuant to the
818 provisions of this chapter, undertakes the financing directly or
819 indirectly of education loans as provided in this chapter;

820 (16) "Parent" means any parent, legal guardian or sponsor of a
821 student at an institution for higher education or enrolled in a high-value
822 certificate program;

823 (17) "Education loan series portfolio" means all education loans made
824 by the authority or by or on behalf of a specific participating institution
825 for higher education which are funded from the proceeds of a related
826 specific bond issue of the authority;

827 (18) "Education assistance program" means a program to assist in
828 financing the costs of education through education loans or education
829 grants, or both;

830 (19) "Education grant" means a grant, scholarship, fellowship or other
831 nonrepayable assistance awarded by the authority to a student currently
832 residing in the state to finance the attendance of the student at a
833 Connecticut institution for higher education or enrollment in a
834 Connecticut high-value certificate program, or a grant, scholarship,
835 fellowship or other nonrepayable assistance awarded by or on behalf of
836 a Connecticut institution for higher education from the proceeds of
837 funds provided by the authority to a student from the state to finance
838 the student's attendance at such institution; [and]

839 (20) "Eligible loan" means any loan that is in repayment that was (A)
840 made by the authority, or (B) made to a borrower by any other private
841 or governmental lender to finance attendance at an institution for higher
842 education [.] or enrollment in a high-value certificate program;

843 (21) "High-value certificate program" means a noncredit sub-
844 baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution of higher
845 education or a private occupational school that the Office of Workforce
846 Strategy designates to be a credential of value pursuant to section 4 of
847 this act; and

848 (22) "Connecticut high-value certificate program" means a high-value
849 certificate program offered by an institution of higher education or a
850 private occupational school in the state.

851 Sec. 24. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Connecticut Higher
852 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish an account to be
853 known as the Certificate Loan Loss Reserve account, which shall be a

854 separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys
 855 required by law to be deposited in the account, including, but not
 856 limited to, state appropriations or proceeds from the sale of bonds.
 857 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the authority to cover any
 858 losses incurred by the authority from issuing authority loans to finance
 859 enrollment in high-value certificate programs, as defined in section 10a-
 860 223 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, including for
 861 reasonable and necessary expenses for the administration of such
 862 authority loans and initial implementation expenses prior to the
 863 origination of such authority loans.

864 Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than September 1, 2022,
 865 and every two years thereafter until September 1, 2028, the Chief
 866 Workforce Officer shall submit to the Board of Regents for Higher
 867 Education and the Governor a report on, but not limited to, credentials
 868 and skills that are in demand in the labor market and that lead to quality
 869 jobs.

870 Sec. 26. Sections 10a-57a, 10a-57b, 10a-57c and 10a-57e of the general
 871 statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

872 Sec. 27. Section 3 of public act 16-44 is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2021*)

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 4-124w |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 5 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10a-34(l) |
| Sec. 6 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10a-35a |
| Sec. 7 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 8 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 31-225a(j) |
| Sec. 9 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 10 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10-221a(j) |
| Sec. 11 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10-221a |
| Sec. 12 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 13 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10-221a |

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|------------------|
| Sec. 14 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 15 | <i>July 1, 2022</i> | 10-69(b) |
| Sec. 16 | <i>July 1, 2022</i> | 10-184 |
| Sec. 17 | <i>July 1, 2022</i> | 10-5(a) |
| Sec. 18 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 19 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 10-220g |
| Sec. 20 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 21 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 22 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 23 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 10a-223 |
| Sec. 24 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 25 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | New section |
| Sec. 26 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | Repealer section |
| Sec. 27 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | Repealer section |

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]